

AgNews



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Contact

Anne Fitzgerald

800.282.8685 (DE only)

302.698.4520

302.242.4092 (Cell)

ACME®

Steve Sylven

508.313.4454

Steve.sylven@supervalu.com

It's Bob Minner Day in Delaware! **Governor Jack Markell and ACME honor local farmers**



Today, Governor Jack Markell and Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee joined Dan Sanders, President of ACME Markets at ACME's Lantana Square store to honor Delaware farmers who partner with ACME to bring fresh, local produce to Delaware consumers. One farmer, Bob Minner, received special recognition from Governor Markell and ACME. Governor Markell proclaimed August 12, 2010 as "Bob Minner Day." Text of the proclamation is attached.

"Agriculture is a critical industry to our state and an important employer for so many families," said Governor Markell. "This is a great example of a healthy relationship. Getting locally grown items on the shelves of stores this size improves the health of our economy. Our farmers' fresh produce in turn, improves the health of these stores' customers."

Left to right:

Front Row: Heather Angstadt, Delaware Peach Queen, Parris Travers, Mar-Del Watermelon Queen, Governor Jack Markell, Robbie Minner (grandson), Mary Minner (wife), Rep. Joseph Miro,

Back row: Curt Fifer, Fifer Orchards, Travis Hastings, Coastal Growers, Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, Bob Minner, R.T. Minner and Sons, Dan Sanders, President of Acme Markets, John Donohue, Lantana Square Acme Store Director, Jay Schneider, Acme Produce Category Manager, Wendy Zahradka, Acme District Manager for Area 4.



“ACME is committed to providing our customers with high-quality produce and it doesn’t get any fresher than what we get from working with local farmers,” said Dan Sanders, president, ACME. “It is the hard work and dedication by local farmers like Bob that enable us to meet the demands of our customers, and more importantly, allow everyone to feel good about supporting farmers and keeping money in the community. Bob is an institution and I can’t think of anyone more deserving of this recognition. ”

Earlier this year, ACME launched its “Locally Harvested” initiative, which is a commitment to deliver the high-quality, fresh produce consumers are seeking. Partnering with over 45 local farmers, the initiative has allowed the company to increase its locally-grown produce inventory by over 25 percent from last year, while providing consumers the convenience of being able to buy farm fresh produce at their primary grocery store.

“Working with local growers is a win-win for all those involved and I know first-hand how satisfying it is for us to be able to work together to provide the community with the freshest produce available,” said Jay Schneider, ACME category manager. “I’ve worked with Bob for 10 years and am honored to be able to recognize him, and all local growers.”

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT

IN OBSERVANCE OF

WAR HERO AND DELAWARE FARMER ROBERT ‘BOB’ MINNER, JR.

Whereas, Bob Minner has remained dedicated to Delaware agriculture since he started farming near Houston, Delaware with his father in the 1950s until the advent of the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, following the Vietnam War, Bob Minner chose to return to his Delaware roots and to the present day, Bob Minner continuously farmed more than 400 acres where he produced *First Rate From the First State*; and

Whereas, because quality farmland is essential to the productivity and sustainability of Delaware agriculture, Bob Minner and his family are actively engaged in permanently preserving their farmland as a legacy for future generations; and

Whereas, in 1970, Bob Minner entered into a more than 40-year direct store delivery relationship with Acme Markets in the region through which he helped establish a clear connection between the agriculture community of Delaware and the food Delawareans put on their tables by providing a large volume of produce from his own fields, such as watermelons, cantaloupes, squash, pumpkins and gourds, to the markets; and

Whereas, over the course of these 40 years, Bob Minner helped his fellow Delaware farmers by purchasing produce from them, \$75,000-80,000 annually, for direct store delivery to Acme Markets; and

Whereas, the success of the great heritage of Delaware agriculture through the years depended on men and women with Bob Minner's knowledge and education.

***Now, Therefore, We, Jack A. Markell, Governor,
and Matthew Denn, Lieutenant Governor,
do hereby declare August 12, 2010***

Bob Minner Day

in the State of Delaware and urge all Delawareans to follow his example of courage, dedication and hard work.

Additional background information about Bob Minner, Jr.:

- **Born December, 7, 1947 (currently 62 years old)**
- **Member of US Army for 2 years; served in Vietnam**
- **Earned two (2) Bronze Stars for his part in moving wounded soldiers/comrades from harms' way**
- **Started farming near Houston, DE with his father in the 1950s (part-time for Bob until after the Army at which time [1969] he went into farming full-time.**
- **Shortly thereafter (1970) Bob began his longtime relationship with Acme Markets, now a 40 year relationship!**
- **Bob supplied Acme Markets for many years throughout DE, all three counties and the southern MD regions including Salisbury & Cambridge**
- **More recently, due to store closings in southern DE, Bob has mainly supplied the upstate and Smyrna and Dover Acmes**
- **Bob has farmed around 400+ acres all his adult life and every single acre is or soon will be in our Agricultural Farmland preservation program**
- **Typically he would purchase about \$75,000-80,000 in produce from other DE farmers, always and only DE farmers he mentioned, for resale to Acme Markets in DE (included were Papen Farms, Fifer Orchards, Vincent Farms and Marino Farms)**
- **Bob also on occasion purchased squash from Sec. of AG Ed Kee in Lincoln that was transported and sold in DE Acmes**
- **Bob figures he sold between 300-400 bins of watermelons annually to Acme Markets**
- **Bob figures he sold approx. 150 bins of cantaloupes annually to Acme**
- **Bob also sold considerable volumes of squash, pumpkins, & gourds to Acme**
- **He and his wife, Mary, operate R.T. Minner and Sons in Houston, DE.**
- **Currently, he farms mostly grain crops (corn, soybeans and wheat) but has a 3 acre 'garden' and sells produce from his 'garden' near his home in Houston, and at the Southern States location near Milford, DE**
- **Bob & Mary have one son who is currently not directly involved in the farm operations.**